



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

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HOUSE PASSES BILL TO HELP STATES & LOCAL COMMUNITIES ENSURE SCHOOL SAFETY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today joined a bipartisan majority of members of Congress in support of legislation that would provide public and private schools access to national criminal information databases, giving schools a valuable tool to use in hiring employees and volunteers entrusted with educating students.

“The communication gaps in information-sharing among states make it difficult to determine whether job applicants or volunteers previously committed a crime,” Simmons said. “Congress has passed legislation that attempts to close this loophole and provide our school districts with an important tool to ensure we have highly qualified staff in our classrooms and schools.”

The bill – H.R. 4894, the “School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act” – would allow states to request federal law enforcement to conduct fingerprint-based background checks of potential new employees or volunteers who would work with children in either public or private schools.

“By providing our educators with access to federal criminal information records, we better protect our children in the classroom,” Simmons concluded.

H.R. 4894 passed the House by a vote of 415 to 1 and now moves to the Senate for its consideration.

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